

BOOK REVIEWS

MIDWIFERY FOR NURSES. By Henry Russel Andrews, M.D., B.S., London.; M.R.C.P., London; Assistant Obstetric Physician to, and Lecturer to Pupil-Midwives at the London Hospital; Examiner to the Central Midwives Board. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., Publishers. London: Edward Arnold.

One would like to know more of the "Pupil-Midwives," to whom this book is dedicated. So comprehensive a text-book on obstetrics would be little suited to the midwife as known in this country; and that the book is not meant for nurses who after a thorough general training decide to make obstetrical or monthly nursing a specialty the rules laid down in Chapter XXVIII plainly indicate.

These rules which seem to be the pith of the Central Board of Midwives while they do not exactly prohibit the midwife from nursing other non-contagious cases certainly limit her capability when, for instance, they list the drugs necessary for her to have a knowledge of: "ergot, castor oil, chloral-hydrate, sulphate of magnesia, compound liquorice powder, and olive oil." Here again we are in need of light. If the same rules apply to the English trained nurse and the American, it would seem that the midwife carries greater powers and responsibilities than her more carefully trained sister the nurse. The rules are not all so generous as this particular one which allows a woman of a few months training to administer chloral at her own discretion; there comes rule 16 which must of necessity be obnoxious to our old friend "Sairey." Rule 16 interferes with the time honored privilege of the local midwife, as we know her in history and in fiction—that of laying out the dead, limiting her ministrations in this instance to her own victims. Of course, it is possible that the midwife as we picture her and the midwife as she really exists may be a vastly different person.

There is a great difference in the handling of the subject from our method of treating it. These British books are so very prone to a tremendously technical way of writing—there is such a bristling of long words, and to the ordinary simply educated person such a repetition of mystifying names for things that they contrast sharply with books of a like character written in this country. The books for nurses most popular with us, we may safely say, are those of Cooke and DeLee, both emi-

nently practical, either of them going thoroughly into the subject, but carrying along with the technical details, practical instruction for the nurse's benefit. A careful comparison of the English and American writer, gives, some way, the idea that the Englishman writes with a view to his own recreation, the American in order to teach nurses, so that he may find them efficient and ready to help him when he has need of their services.

It is comforting to reflect, that we are not victims to the necessity for relaxation, which a bachelor of science, with all the letters of the alphabet tailing after his name, feels can only be obviated by writing a book for us.

PRACTICAL TEXT-BOOK OF MIDWIFERY FOR NURSES. By Robert Jardine, M.D., Edinburgh; M.R.C.S., England; F.F.P. and S., Glasgow; F.R.S., Edinburgh; Professor of Midwifery in St. Mungo's College, Glasgow; Senior Physician to the Glasgow Maternity Hospital, Glasgow; Examiner in Midwifery to the Scottish Conjoint Board; Formerly Examiner in Midwifery to the University of Glasgow; Late President of the Glasgow Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society; Author of Clinical Obstetrics, etc. London: Henry Kimp-ton Publishers. Chicago: W. T. Keener.

This branch of nursing seems to furnish a subject particularly tempting to pens of the men of our mother country, and while it is a subject which never fails to command attention and to claim interest, one wonders that there is room for so many text-books on the same subject, of equal caliber and as far as one may judge of equal value. The present volume, a third edition, is so much like others of its kind which have been reviewed in these pages as to lead to the mistaken impression that it has already been noticed. There is in this book, however, a certain characteristic personality which is quite its own. The author, in spite of his many degrees of scholarship, gossips like a veritable old wife at times and because he is Scotch, and he writes to the Scotch, he mentions some weird old superstitions that would never have survived in any other country than Scotland.

We are amazed also to read of the dearth of medical attention suffered by the people in the outlying islands of Scotland as shown in the following: "In the Island of St. Kilda, which lies off the west coast of Scotland, for many years nearly all the children born on the island died from tetanus, within a few days of birth. In 1896 the late Dr. G. A. Turner, of Glasgow, gave full instructions to the *missionary* on the